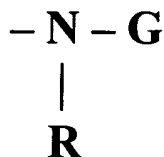


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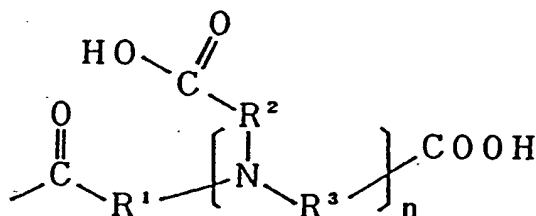
a group represented by formula 1:



..... Formula 1

wherein G represents a residue of a chain sugar alcohol or a residue of a polyhydric alcohol, and R represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or -G; and

an acyl group represented by formula 2:



..... Formula 2

wherein each of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represents a lower alkylene group, and n denotes an integer of 1 to 4.

29. (New) A chelate-forming filter according to claim 28, wherein G is a residue lacking an amino group selected from the group consisting of D-glucamine, D-galactamine, D-mannosamine, D-arabitylamine, N-methyl-D-glucamine, N-ethyl-D-glucamine, N-methyl-D-galactamine, N-ethyl-D-galactamine, N-methyl-D-mannosamine and N-ethyl-D-mannosamine and R is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, in the formula 1.

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30. (New) A chelate-forming filter according to claim 28, wherein G is a dihydroxypropyl group, and R is a hydrogen or a lower alkyl group, in the formula 1.

C1  
conts.  
31. (New) A chelate-forming filter according to claim 28, wherein said acyl group represented by the formula 2 is derived from at least one compound selected from the group consisting of nitrilotriacetic anhydride, ethylenediaminetetraacetic dianhydride, and diethylenetriaminepentaacetic dianhydride.

32. (New) A chelate-forming filter according to claim 28, wherein said chelate-forming fiber has a capability of capturing, as a chelate, a metalloid element or a compound thereof.

33. (New) A chelate-forming filter according to claim 32, wherein said metalloid element or a compound thereof is boron or a boron compound.

34. (New) A chelate-forming filter according to claim 28, wherein said chelate-forming fiber has a capability of capturing, as a chelate, a heavy metal element or a compound thereof.

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35. (New) A chelate-forming filter according to claim 28, wherein an introduced amount of the chelate-forming functional group calculated by a following equation is greater than or equal to 10% by weight of the fiber,

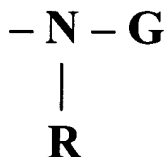
C1  
cont.

$$\frac{\text{weight of fiber after reaction} - \text{weight of fiber before reaction}}{\text{weight of fiber before reaction}} \times 100 = \text{Introduced amount weight percent.}$$

36. (New) A process for the purification of a liquid, comprising the steps of:

providing a device having a chelate-forming filter, the chelate-forming filter comprising at least one of a natural fiber and a regenerated fiber containing at least one chelate-forming functional group, the chelate-forming functional group being selected from:

a group represented by formula 1:



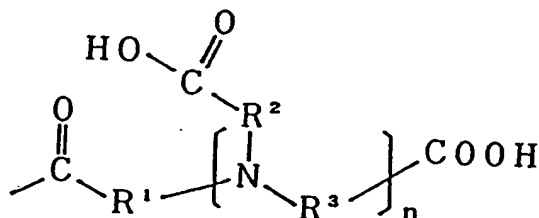
..... Formula 1

wherein G represents a residue of a chain sugar alcohol or a residue of a polyhydric alcohol, and R represents a hydrogen atom, a

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lower alkyl group or -G; and

an acyl group represented by formula 2:



..... Formula 2

C1  
cont  
wherein each of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represents a lower alkylene group, and n denotes an integer of 1 to 4; and

passing the liquid through the chelate-forming filter to concurrently remove ionic substances and insoluble impurities from the liquid.

37. (New) A process for the purification of a liquid according to claim 36, wherein said step of passing the liquid through the chelate-forming filter includes passing an aqueous liquid or an oily liquid through the chelate-forming filter.

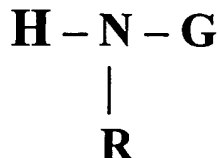
38. (New) A process for producing a chelate-forming filter, comprising the steps of:

providing a natural fiber and/or a regenerated fiber into a filter having a functional group;

reacting the functional group with:

an amine compound represented by formula A:

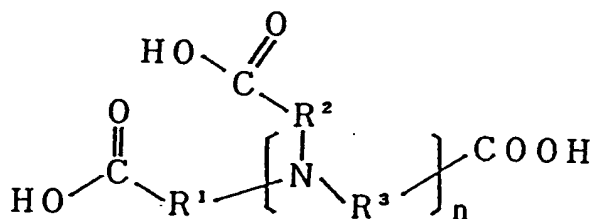
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..... **Formula A**

wherein G represents a residue of a chain sugar alcohol or a residue of a polyhydric alcohol, and R represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or -G; and/or

an acid anhydride of a polycarboxylic acid represented by formula B:



..... **Formula B**

wherein each of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, and R<sup>3</sup> represents a lower alkylene group, and n denotes an integer of 1 to 4,

to thereby introduce a chelate-forming functional group into the fiber.

39. (New) A process for producing a chelate-forming filter according to claim 38, wherein said step of reacting the functional group fiber includes using a cross-linking agent.

40. (New) A process for producing a chelate-forming filter according to claim 38, wherein the amine compound represented by

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the formula A is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of D-glucamine, N-methyl-D-glucamine, and dihydroxypropylamine.

C1  
cont  
41. (New) A process for producing a chelate-forming filter according to claim 38, wherein the acid anhydride of polycarboxylic acid represented by the formula B is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of nitrilotriacetic anhydride, ethylenediaminetetraacetic dianhydride, and diethylenetriaminepentaacetic dianhydride.

42. (New) A process for producing a chelate-forming filter, comprising the steps of:

providing a natural fiber and/or a regenerated fiber into a filter having a functional group which is reactive with an acid anhydride;

reacting a cross-linking compound with the functional group; and further reacting a chelate-forming compound with the cross-linking compound,

wherein the cross-linking compound is an acid anhydride having a double bond, and the chelate-forming compound is a compound having a carboxyl group and at least one group selected

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from the group consisting of an amino group, an imino group, and a thiol group in a molecule thereof.

C1  
cont.  
43. (New) A process for producing a chelate-forming filter according to claim 42, wherein at least one compound selected from the group consisting of amino acids, iminodiacetic acid, iminodisuccinic acid, ethylenediaminediacetic acid, thioglycolic acid, thiomalic acid, thiosalicylic acid, and mercaptopropionic acid is used as the chelate-forming compound. --

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REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 3-4, 6-10, 12-18, 20 and 22-26 have been canceled and new claims 28-43 have been added. Currently, claims 28-43 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 12-18, 20 and 22-26 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner stated that the claims contained numerous vague and indefinite expressions. This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Regarding the rejection of claim 1 as being indefinite,